

**Westgate School Council Meeting
November 23, 2015 @ 7:00pm**

Present: Coral Charlton, Nick Sacevich, Delfina Trevisan, Tammy DaCosta, Margaret Zacheriesz, bonnie Johnsen, Cheri Lappage, Tracy Desjardine, Mark Nowak, Doreen Macgee

Regrets: Carlos Santander, Tracy Desjardines

Call to order: 7:10pm

1. **Welcome**

1.1 Introductions

1.2 Approval of Agenda

1st: Delfina Trevisan

2nd: Tammy DaCosta

2. **Minutes**

2.1 Review and Approval of Minutes from September 28

1st: Delfina Trevisan

2nd: Tammy DaCosta

3. **Correspondence**

None

4. **Staff and Student Reports**

4.1 **Principal's Report – Ms. Charlton**

November Newsletter Provided. Referenced Principal's Address:

It has been a busy start to another exciting school year, and Westgate's staff and students have continued to illustrate why "always only the best" is such an appropriate motto for our incredible school.

During the first term of the 2015-2016 school year, we have enjoyed many exciting events at Westgate, including but limited to a fun-filled Welcome Luncheon in our courtyard for new grade 9 tigers, a memorable SAC Leadership Retreat at the Kingfisher Outdoor Education Centre, an inspiring week of pink 'Tigers-for-a-Cure' activities for Northern Cancer Research, a thunderous and entertaining school-wide pep rally, an outstanding Fall Classic Basketball Tournament that hosted 23 junior and senior girls' teams from across Ontario, a lovely Meet and Greet Luncheon with parents and community members of Fort William First Nation, a powerful assembly on anti-bullying and a spook-tacular Halloween dance.

With November now upon us, we are preparing for a very special and memorable Remembrance Day assembly, an awareness-raising Party Program Day for our grade 11s and an Achievement Night that will recognize the academic and co-curricular accomplishments of Westgate students in the 2014-2015 school year. We are also looking forward to hosting a Musical Cabaret at the end of the month, as well as our annual Tiger Tip-Off and Tiger Spike-Off tournaments. In the months ahead, we will prepare for more incredible adventures, including a

spring band trip and a March break travel club excursion to England, Scotland and Ireland. We will also continue our ongoing fundraising efforts (through Me-to-We Westgate) to help build a school in an under-privileged country.

It is truly an honour to be principal of such an amazing school, and I am so very proud of our staff and students for the many ways that they showcase their commitment to being "always only the best." It has been another incredible start-up, and I look forward to many great things ahead.

Other Information Provided:

- Meet and Greet with Fort William First Nation
- Bullying Speaker came, well received by staff and students
- Halloween Dance – 160 Students attended
- Remembrance Day Assembly – well received
- PARTY Program for safe decisions for Grade 11 Students
 - Achievement night – recognized students for marks, sports, spirit, and prefect attendance
 - Tiger Tip-Off is December 4
 - Cabaret Night – this Friday and Saturday
 - March Break travel club is going to England, Scotland and Ireland
 - Keith Nutley from Special Olympics came to thank the girls who helped out
 - PD Day Training – Workshops were provided
 - November 16th School yard clean-up, every student involved got 2 hours of volunteer hours
 - November 17th was 'Dress in Hot Pink' for Bullying
 - Fire alarms and Lock-down procedures were reviewed
 - Beautification Grants – Benches and planters
 - Labour Negotiations have been settled for custodian staff
 - SSP are still in negotiations
 - 16 to 17th are course options, courses will be added or cut depending on enrolment
 - Family Day is February 15, 2016
 - Open House is February 11, 2016
 - Movie Night December 16 at 6pm, \$5 admission, Fundraiser for Build-A-School - Movie is "Elf"

4.2 **Staff Report**

Mark Nowak gave staff report. Highlighted many of the items spoken to by Principal. In addition, shared information about a football issue (involving Churchill) that had generated some negative press for both schools.

4.3 **Student Report (Joe – President Student Council)**

- So far this year: Grade 9 activities, student ambassadors at Welcome BBQ, Pep Rally, SAC Retreat, Octoberfest 1 Week event, Halloween Dance.
- Working on: Christmas Cheer – collecting food items, Candy-grams, Holiday

Fest assembly, Semi-formal Dance in February, plus another additional dance.

4.4 **Me-to-We Westgate (Nikole Anderson - *regrets)**

- Various fundraising initiatives occurring.
- Toques – 100% of funds raised go to building a school in an under - privileged country, available in the office for \$28 each.

1. **New Business**

5.1 **Lakehead Public Schools International (My-Tien Nguyen)**

Powerpoint Presentation. This program is to bring international students to Canada and let them experience the Canadian culture and education. This year we have decided to sponsor students from China. We are currently looking for families to sponsor a student.

If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please visit *Home Stay International @ <http://whyihost.ca/>*

5.2 **Social Work Services (Laura Ward, Rebecca)**

- Attendance Counsellor and Mental Health and Addictions Nurse
- Working with Westgate and Churchill, working though CCAC and Lakehead Public Schools Board
- Provide attendance counselling, mental health and addictions counselling, and referrals to community programs
- Collaborate with families, students, doctors, counsellors, teachers
- Provide referrals to U-turn program at Smith Clinic, and SKIP Program

5.3 **School Tour (Learning Lodge, Foods Lab, Wellness room, New Washrooms)**

- School Council went on a tour of the new facilities

6. **General Information, Updates and Inquiries**

6.1 **ProGrant Event Update and Planning**

- Need to recruit more parents for School Council
- Would like Community Living (and other agencies) to come in and speak with parents of Special Needs Students that are graduating, to answer questions about life options after graduation. Special Education Teacher to join our next School Council meeting.
- Next meeting we will begin planning this Progrant event.

6.2 **Next Meeting Date**

Monday January 18, 2016 at 7:00pm

7. **Adjournment**

8:30pm